

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

Whitworth Urban District

DURING 1938.

WHITWORTH :

H. Howard, Printer and Stationer, 669 Market Street.

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR J. HEAP

COUNCILLORS MRS. I. HEYS, J.P. (*ex-officio*)

T. GROARKE

F. HILL

F. HOLT, J.P.

G. KERSHAW

A. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. T. J. L. FORBES

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

MR. F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

LIST OF ACTS AND SECTIONS THEREOF
ADOPTED BY THE WHITWORTH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

- I. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.
- II. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, (Part III)
Adopted December 6th, 1909.
- III. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, (Part II).
Local Government Board Order, dated November 9th,
1910.
- IV. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, extending to
Poliomyelitis and Cerebro Spinal Fever, February,
1912.
- V. Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II, III and IV, including
Sections 21 and 22 of Part II, Section 44 of Part III,
and Part V, as from 31st January, 1927.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE :

- I. New Streets and Buildings—9th May, 1910.
- II. Means of escape in case of fire—9th May, 1910.
- III. Nuisances—9th May, 1910.
- IV. Cleansing of Footways and Pavements—9th May, 1910.
- V. Slaughter Houses—9th May, 1910.
- VI. Common Lodging Houses—9th May, 1910.
- VII. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations—9th May,
1910.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of
Whitworth.*

GENTLEMEN :

I have again the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and mortality of our district during the year ended 1938.

The usual Tables are included in it and a summary of particulars, as required by the Ministry of Health Circular.

On this occasion I specially thank the Health Committee and my colleagues for their support during the past year, and especially since the end of February, 1939, during a trying illness.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. J. L. FORBES, M.B., Ch.M.

*Council Offices, Whitworth,
31st March, 1939.*

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	4,483
Population—Census, 1931	8,360
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938.....	7,538
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931).....	2,564
End of 1938 according to rate books	2,527
Rateable value.....	£32,900
Sum represented by a penny rate	£123 0s. 0d.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—An Industrial Area : Cotton Spinning and Weaving ; Stone Quarrying ; Dairy Farming ; Shuttle and Picker Making.

Extent of unemployment—Very considerable.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—Silicosis among quarry workers ; Asbestosis among asbestos workers ; Bronchitis and Asthma among cardroom operatives in cotton trade.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Total.	M.	F.	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 12·3
		Legitimate	87	42	
		Illegitimate	6	5	
		Total ...	93	47	
Still Births	...	...	5	4	1
Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths) 51					
Deaths	...	...	118	61	57
Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ..*15·6					

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1000 live births...	86
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	57
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	500

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	4

Population 7,538 Mid 1938	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 total (live and still) Births		
					Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 still Births	
Mean of 5 years							
1933-1937	13·4	15·0	0·61	1·60	Nil	Nil	89
1937	14·0	14·2	0·13	1·44	Nil	Nil	65
1938	12·3	*15·6	0·66	1·98	Nil	Nil	86
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on 5 years average							
1933-1937	—1·1	+0·6	+0·05	+0·38	Nil	Nil	—3
Previous Year—	1·7	+1·4	+0·53	+0·54	Nil	Nil	+21

*1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·03)=16·5 per 1,000.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment. —None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year —None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health. —As above.

Any *evidence*, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults. —None.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS											Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	11	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia... }															
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—															
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles... }	Not Notifica- ble	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough															
Any other disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	24	2	...	...	...	1	6	9	...	5	...	1	...	13	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES	M. 61	F. 57
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	1
Influenza ... ..	...	...
Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	...
Cancer	8	7
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	1
Heart disease	14	18
Other circulatory diseases	8	8
Bronchitis	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	3
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	1
Peptic ulcer	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	2
Appendicitis	1	...
Liver diseases	1	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	1
Nephritis	6	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...
Congenital causes, etc.	1	2
Endocarditis and Premature Birth, etc. ... ..	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy & parturition ... ..	...	...
Senility	2	1
Suicide ... ..	...	...
Other deaths from violence	3	1
Other defined causes	4	6
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... {	Total ... 2	5
{ Legitimate ... ..	...	4
{ Illegitimate	2	1
LIVE BIRTHS ... {	Total ... 47	46
{ Legitimate	42	45
{ Illegitimate	5	1
STILLBIRTHS ... {	Total ... 4	1
{ Legitimate	4	1
{ Illegitimate ... ..	...	...
POPULATION (RESIDENT) ...	7538	
COMPARABILITY FACTOR	1.06	

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified { Uncertified ...				2 ...	1 ..	... ...	.. ...	3 ...	3 ..	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..	7 ...
{ Small-pox ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Chicken-pox ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Measles ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Scarlet Fever ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diphtheria and Croup ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Whooping Cough ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diarrhoea ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteritis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Tuberculous Meningitis... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Congenital Malformations ... ..				..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Premature Birth				1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
{ Atrophy, Debility													
Marasmus... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i> ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Laryngitis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Suffocation... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Endocarditis				1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pemphigus... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accident ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....				2	1			3	3	1			7

Births { legitimate... 87 } 93
 { illegitimate. 6 }

Deaths { legitimate infants, 4 } 7
 { illegitimate infants, 3 }

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
15—20 „	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „ .....	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
35—45 „	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „ .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65 „	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	2	1	3	3	1	1	0
	7		4		4		1	
	11				5			

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths ?—All notified.

In your opinion is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient ?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify ?—Not necessary.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district ?
—As a terminal result of Silicosis.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Population is estimated as 7583. Last year I suggested the estimated population was too low, and when it came to the issue of gas masks during the crisis in September 1938, this was confirmed

The **Birth Rate** is 12·3 as compared with 14 in 1937. The sex incidence is Males 47, Females 46.

Taking the country as a whole the birth rate continues to diminish. Of course this is not primarily a medical problem, and this district is no exception. All that medical science can do is to assure women that it was never safer to bear children with less detriment to themselves. At the same time the certainty of healthy offspring is greater. Still, fewer babies are being born!

The **Death Rate** works out at 15·6 (crude) as compared with 14·2 in 1937. Sex incidence Males 61, Females 57. The main causes of death continue in about the same proportion. The Cancer group we would all be devoutly thankful to see reduced.

“The New Cancer Act seems a big step in the right direction and its success should lie in the improvement of existing radiological methods and the opening up of new lines of attack on this dreadful disease. This can only follow on more knowledge of the actual nature of Cancer.”

Without being unduly pessimistic, the present methods of treating cancer, except in certain cases, are not good enough to lead to the expectation of great saving of life, even when more extensively used, and diagnostic methods keeping pace.

The number of **Transferable Deaths** *i.e.*, deaths of residents outwith the area, is 41. This applies chiefly to deaths in Hospital. Whilst writing on this point it occurs to me that the area will have to be catered for to a greater extent by our local Hospitals, or else the Subscriptions to Manchester Hospitals will require to be augmented, *e.g.*, in the annual reports of the Manchester Royal Infirmary the amount contributed is out of all proportion to the benefits received.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The figures for the year show a rate of 86. This rate is increased by deaths at Mount Pleasant Convent, in children born elsewhere

The causes of death in infants (*i.e.*, under twelve months of age) do not call for any special comment.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The figures remain very satisfactory. This is a department I have always had a special interest in, and as M.O.H. I am glad to think the doctors and midwives practising in the District provide an excellent service.

Maternal mortality figures remained pretty constant from 1912 to 1936, when the last Midwives Act was passed. The recent decline in deaths from puerperal sepsis all over the country may be due in part to this new Act, but the last few years have yielded two great discoveries: (i) The marvellous results of the new remedy Prontosil and other compounds; (ii) The fact that many cases of puerperal sepsis can be traced to germs conveyed to the patient from the throat or respiratory tract of attending doctors or nurses. Then again other factors such as improved housing, improved dieting, temperance, and greater ante-natal care, all enter into this happy state of affairs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number is 24 as compared with 11 in the previous year.

The number of cases of **Diphtheria** should be lower. Fortunately only one fatal case occurred. This was a so-called "Hemorrhagic case," and hopeless from the first day. Practically all the Diphtheria cases are hospitalized, on my advice. Looking to the mild nature of the cases of Scarlet Fever seen nowadays, I think most of these cases can be kept at home, provided isolation at home is available, and intelligent nursing. As we know it now, "Scarlet Fever" can be caused by different members of the same family of germs, and unfortunately a child in hospital may pick up fresh infection more readily than at home.

To my mind there is something suggestive in the number of cases of Diphtheria (which for years was practically never seen, or at least not notified) and the number of so-called

Scarlet Fever cases associated with streptococcal germs and bad throats. This leads up to the question of how is the incidence of Diphtheria to be reduced.

When any advance is made in medical science there is usually a lag in its application. This arises from various causes. In our District I have always been aware of a strong prejudice against ordinary "Vaccination" against Smallpox. One of the most striking examples is the apathy and lack of public recognition of the method of "immunisation" for preventing diphtheria. This method is of proved value now, and I strongly commend it to the younger mothers of the community and School Managers. I am one of those who think it is possible to stamp out Diphtheria, one of the commonest single causes of death amongst school children.

Puerperal Pyrexia. All the cases notified recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified, one of which was a doubtful case. The sight was not impaired after the condition cleared away.

Measles. During the year 1938 this was of a mild type and did not give much trouble.

School Closures were not called for during the year for any reason.

Tuberculosis. The figures show a drop in the number of fresh cases; and the mortality would also be less if we had no Silicosis cases. The latter condition predisposes to a fatal issue.

For many years I have advocated the use of masks amongst quarry workers, and I think in some sections of the industry one notices more being worn.

HOUSING.

See Tables for details. (Sanitary Inspector's report.)

The programme on hand is now completed, so I have no special items to report on. The shortage of houses available is less acute, but many of the houses are still below the standard laid down by the Ministry of Health. Should trade improve in the valley or some new industry be established, more houses would be indicated.

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1938 we have had to deal with one or two polluted supplies, from private wells. The Corporation supplies were excellent all through the year, although early this year (1939)

the supply from Bacup was musty smelling and darker in colour than normally for a short period. Analysis of some samples revealed nothing serious.

MILK SUPPLY.

A great deal of work has been put into the question of improving our milk supply. I wrote fully about this in my previous year's report. (The New Milk Bill was hung up.) Meantime there is a definite improvement.

Some of the samples tested were literally filthy. The astonishing thing is that occasionally we get a poisonous sample from what we regard as one of our model shippens and a farmer who is really a clean producer of milk.

"However in milk, as in water control, it is far more important to examine numerous samples by a simple test, than *occasional* samples by a more complicated test or series of tests."

The Sanitary Inspector's Report will provide routine information on such matters as Supervision of Food, Dairies and Cowsheds, Milk Production, etc.

A.R.P.

So far as possible much progress has been made up to date. The various sections have been organized and lectures arranged. Dr. Wilson (L C C.) has acted as liaison officer for the County and rendered much help.

The arrangements previously made have now been simplified in the light of fresh instructions, and it is hoped to make headway during the year 1939.

I find I must end these notes on a purely personal key.

Owing to an unlooked for breakdown in health in February 1939 I was peremptorily ordered to cease all professional work for an indefinite period. I therefore placed my resignation from the office of Medical Officer of Health in the hands of the Health Committee much to my regret as at 31st March, 1939. Speaking from memory I think Whitworth Urban District was constituted in 1894, and my predecessor held the office of M.O.H. till his death in 1915. I was then appointed in his stead, and the standard of his Public Health work was so high, in my opinion, that he was a very difficult official to follow.

The march of time is to see re-arrangements by the L.C.C. and if my successor's relations with the Health Committee and his colleagues are as happy as mine have always been, I can wish him nothing better.

T. J. L. FORBES.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—DR. T. J. L. FORBES.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?—
Part-time. Any other public appointments held by him?—
Yes, Police Surgeon.

Is he in private practice?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspector—F. COOKSON.

Whole or part time as Sanitary Inspector—Whole.

Other appointments held (if any)—Meat and Food Inspector,
Shops Act Inspector.

Any other Specialised Inspector(s) (*e.g.*, Food Inspector)?—
No; food inspection carried out by Sanitary Inspector who is
fully qualified.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical
Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental
Surgeon, etc.—Lancashire County Council Staff.

Ambulance facilities for:—

- (a) Infectious cases: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.
- (b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.
- (c) Maternity patients: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the
district for—

- (a) General Nursing—None.
- (b) Nursing of infectious diseases, *e.g.*, measles,
etc.—None.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations—£58.

Treatment Centres and Clinics (including Clinics solely for diagnosis and consultation) :—

Is there in your district :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and treatment)	} Lancashire County Council
Ante-natal Clinic	
Day Nursery	
School Clinic	
Orthopædic Clinic	
Artificial Light Clinic	

Hospitals *in the district*—

(a) Public—None.

(b) Voluntary—None.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for :—

Unmarried mothers—No.

Illegitimate infants—No.

Homeless children—No.

Health Education :—Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment? (*e.g.*, Health Week, special lectures, etc.)—By Distribution of Posters and Leaflets.

Give a brief description of special efforts made locally in connection with National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of the health services—Leaflets.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authorities and sources of supply—Rochdale and Bacup Corporation Reservoirs.

Nature of supply (*e.g.*, moorland, deep wells, etc.)—Moorland.

Particulars of any *new* sources of public supply—None.

Is supply of district satisfactory ?—(a) in quality—Yes.
(b) in quantity—Yes.

Constant or intermittent—Constant.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private) : (a) direct from mains—2500. (b) by stand pipe—None.

Possibilities of contamination—None known.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination—Frequent flushing.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action—None reported.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year ?—Bacteriological examination—6. Results—Satisfactory.

Chemical analyses—4. Results—Satisfactory.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.—160.

Have these waters been examined during the year ?

Bacteriological examinations—4. Results—Two unsatisfactory. Towns supply installed.

Chemical analyses—Nil. Results—Nil.

Any insufficiency, and where—None known.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year—None.

Drainage and Sewerage :—Sewage disposal works, method of treatment—Precipitation tanks, continuous filters, and humus tanks.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system—None.

Areas, or Townships without proper drainage system and reason therefor—None.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.—Testing and flushing carried out by Local Authority.

Rivers and Streams :—Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams—Connection of drainage to sewer where found entering river. Periodical inspection of offensive trades.

Sources and nature of pollution—No serious pollution.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution?—No.

Closet accommodation at end of 1938 :—

Privy middens :—No. of middens—None.

No. of closets attached to these middens—None.

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres?—No.

No. of pail closets—65.

No. of dry ashpits (*excluding middens*)—None.

No. of movable ashbins—1795.

No. of houses on water carriage system—2533.

No. of fresh water closets—1794.

No. of waste water closets—173.

Conversions—

		During year 1938	During 5 years 1933-37
No. of privy closets	{ To fresh w.c.'s ...	None ...	7
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	None ...	None
	{ To pails, etc. ...	None ...	None
No. of pail closets	{ To fresh w.c.'s ...	None ...	1076
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	None ...	None
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s ...		6 ...	11
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed recep- tacles		None ...	6

Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Conversion of pail closets to the fresh water carriage system, but majority of pail closets are now situated at farms where no sewer is available.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—When occasion arises. If so, how much?—Half cost or £4 maximum.

Public Cleansing—

- (a) The method of collecting dry house refuse—Manual labour and motor transport.
- (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.—No earth closets or privies.
- (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse—Controlled tipping.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies—See (b) above.

(e) The method of cleansing cesspools—None.

(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents—None.

If a destructor is provided, state situation—No destructor.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses—Sanitary Authority.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements—No ; weekly collection.

Are motor vehicles used ?—Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night ?—No middens exist.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging ? Yes

Sanitary Inspections during 1938 (including Housing) :—

No. of premises visited—361.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered 255. No. abated 192

No. of notices served—Informal 45. Statutory 18.

Legal Proceedings—No.—3. Result—Order of Court to carry out work.

Shops and Offices—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of :

(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences—Shops inspected, but no action required.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, *i.e.*, ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. (See pages 3 and 4 of *M. of H. Circular 1600*, dated 1st May, 1937).—No action required.

Camping Sites--

- (a) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938—None.
- (b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licenses have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—None.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938.—None.

Smoke Abatement :—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—
Further to the time limit for black smoke, attention is drawn for 10 minutes' emission of dense smoke per half hour.

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district—14. Four not in use at present.

No. of observations—6.

No. of legal proceedings taken and result—None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry—
Co-operation where possible with management during emission of black smoke with a view to finding cause of emission.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ?—Six minutes.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

Brief particulars of any :

- (a) Public swimming baths or pools—None. Rochdale and Bacup Public Baths made use of.
- (b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public—None.
- (c) Action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water—None required.

Eradication of bed bugs—

Particulars of action taken during 1938—

No. of houses found to be infested : (a) Council Houses—Nil ; (b) Other houses—3.

No. of houses disinfested : (a) Council houses—Nil ; (b) Other houses—3.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs—Spraying and fumigation after removal of wallpaper, skirting boards, floor boarding, etc.

State name of fumigant and/or insecticide used, and efficiency thereof—Cymex and Fumoids. Efficient with satisfactory preparation.

Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to council houses—None adopted by Council.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a contractor?—Local Authority. Contractor in two instances where engaged by private owner.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—Not found necessary as very little known infestation. No complaints of bug infestation.

Schools—

(a) Sanitary condition—Good.

(b) Water supply—Corporation. Satisfactory?—Yes.

Offensive Trades:—No. of premises—2. Type of offensive trades—Tripe Dressing and Hide Curing.

Action taken—Frequent inspection. Action required—None

Date of bye-laws—None.

Workshops and Workplaces:—

No. on Register—42. What is their condition?—Majority satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses:—No. on register—Nil. Date of bye-laws—May, 1910. Are they adequate?—Yes.

Houses let in lodgings:—No. on register—Nil.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.:—Action taken—None. Action required—None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms:—Any need for regulations? None.

Canal Boats:—Number inspected—None. Number of infringements of Acts—None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928:—No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold—None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1938:—

See Housing Report. General steady improvement.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District:—

The repair and surfacing of secondary and private streets.
The repair and surfacing of common back yards and passages.

HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	62
(i) By the local authority... ..	60
(ii) By other local authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	2
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	60
(ii) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (iii) above)	0

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	124
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	238
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	35
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	18

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	89
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

(b)* Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	†18

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

* Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects.

† Includes Demolition Orders made 1937.

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	62
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	75
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	393
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	0
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	25
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		170

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. *General observations as to housing conditions*, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :

Prevailing forms of defects are

Back to earth houses (174) with cavity at rear of little consequence.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district—750.

2. *Sufficiency of supply of houses.*

(a) Extent of shortage (if any) :—

No general shortage.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated :—

None at present contemplated.

Erection of 32 houses being completed.

(c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future :—

None.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses :—

No.

3. *Overcrowding.*

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1938 :—

No cases of overcrowding in Council houses.

- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations :—

None.

- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :—

None.

- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc. :—

No serious overcrowding. In certain instances inability to pay a larger rent.

4. *Fitness of houses.*

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts :—

None.

- (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply :—

None known.

- (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation :—

None.

5. *Action taken during the year regarding :—*

Clearance Areas—

No. of areas represented—None.

No. of areas cleared—None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants—
None.

Improvement Areas—

No. of areas represented—None.

No. of houses demolished—None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants—
None.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Milk supply—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Periodical inspection of Farms and Dairies, Biological, Bacteriological and Methylene blue Sampling of milk.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1938 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” milk :

(i) Bottling—Nil. (ii) Distribution—Nil.

“Accredited” milk :

(i) Bottling—Nil. (ii) Distribution—Nil.

No. of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk :

Pasteurising plants—Nil. Retail distributors—Nil.

Method used for the pasteurisation of milk (“flash” or “holding”)—No pasteurisation apparatus.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—Approximately twice yearly.

What is their condition?—Majority good. Steady progress of modernisation.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, *e.g.*, re-modelling of cowsheds? (Give brief particulars) :

Procedure through informal notice followed up by negotiations with owners. Two shippons re-constructed on modern principles ; two new dairies provided ; Drainage reconstructed, etc.

Any information as to the cost of work, either actual or estimated : £400.

Farms.

No. of dairy farms—33.

Approximate number of cows in the district—358.

Cowkeepers.

No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms)—39.

No. of inspections during the year—71.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers).

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)—0.

Action taken by local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous milk. No. of samples submitted for biological test—33.

Result :—Positive—0. Negative—33.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations :—Standards adopted—
Not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c. No B.Coli in .01 c.c.

No. of samples—30. No. satisfactory—19. No. unsatisfactory—11.

(iii) Sediment tests. No. of samples—4. No. satisfactory—3. No. unsatisfactory—1.

(iv) Methylene Blue test. No. of samples—10. No. satisfactory—3. No. unsatisfactory—7.

(2) Meat and other foods.—Observations on—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared :—

Annual notifications re times of slaughtering, inspection two or three times weekly of slaughterhouses and meat-carrying vehicles and frequent inspections of food preparation premises.

No. of legal proceedings and result—Nil.

(b) Inspection of meat—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

				Cattle (excluding Cows Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known ...	...	...	...	Not fully known				
Number inspected ...	...	...	...	279		36	1369	188
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	...	...	...	—	4	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—

(c) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided?—No.

Private slaughterhouses :—No. registered—None. No.
licensed—7.

Are they conducted satisfactorily?—Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III of the Public
Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give
particulars with regard to action taken thereunder :—
None.

(e) Food Poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken
(if any)—
None required.

(f) Bakehouses :—Number—23. Condition—Fairly good.

(3) Adulteration, etc. —

If the local authority is a Food and Drugs Authority state action taken in respect of—

- (i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—Not a Food and Drugs Authority.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out—St. Alban's Laboratory when necessary.

(4) Chemical and bacteriological examinations of food (excluding milk)—No. and nature of analyses during the year—
None.

(5) Nutrition—

Indicate steps taken to increase knowledge of public on the subject and to bring to their minds the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children, by means of lectures, films, etc.—

By leaflet.

Give particulars of any special investigation which has been made on the subject of nutrition—

None.

(6) Shell-fish (*Molluscan*)—

- (a) Give particulars of any shell-fish beds or layings in the district (specifying the kinds of shell-fish)—None.

Action under—

- (i) Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934—Nil.

- (ii) Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For Smallpox—Bury and District Joint Hospital.

No. of beds—Unlimited.

Where situate—Bury.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement” ?
(state nature thereof) :—Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid ?—Yes. If so, what sum or
sums ?—£40 per annum.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority ?
Not a Joint Hospital.

For other infectious diseases—Marland Infectious Diseases
Hospital.

No. of beds—Unlimited.

Where situate—Marland, Rochdale.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement” ?
(state nature thereof) :—Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid ?—No.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority ?
No.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of
treatment ?—No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease.—Average
cost per patient, Year ended December 31st, 1938, £28.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of
securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised
to the best advantage ?—Yes.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of
uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever ?—Yes.

Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home ?—Yes

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative ?—No.

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough ?—No.

Infectious diseases generally :—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1938, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection—

Most noticeable was the increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria, some of them severe. This was probably associated with carriers in one of the schools

Give brief particulars of the clinical type and spread of such diseases as diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever—

Diphtheria—Faucial.

Cerebro-spinal fever—None.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of :

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin—Promptly used.

Are supplies readily available ?—Yes.

If so, where kept ?—At M.O.H.'s house and Health Office.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum—None issued.

Are supplies readily available ?—Yes.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners ?—Yes, if required.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash, and puerperal fever)—None reported.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics :

None required.

Pneumonia, malaria, and dysentery.—Experience in regard to these diseases—Ordinary.

Other diseases which have received special attention, *e.g.*, locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever undulant fever, glandulant fever, or psittacosis ?

Nothing special.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period.

Measles, Whooping cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)
Chicken-pox—Not notifiable.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation ?—None.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to Diphtheria :

(a) contacts—Swabbing.

(b) return cases—Nil.

(c) carrier cases—Treated at Marland Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised ?—Fully.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.—At which laboratory are specimens examined ?—

St. Alban's Laboratory, Rochdale.

No. of specimens examined in 1938 :

(a) diphtheria—30. (b) scarlet fever—0.

(c) enteric fever—0. (d) miscellaneous (state nature—0

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1938 for—

Scarlet fever—0. Whooping cough—0. Diphtheria—0.
Chicken-pox—0. Measles—0 Influenza.—0. Any other diseases (specify same)—0.

Number of reports made during 1938 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935—

Subjects of reports—None.

Immunisation.—

(1) *Diphtheria*.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools—None during 1938.

(b) At special clinics or day schools—None.

(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b)—By private practitioners for diphtheria.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—Yes, when asked for.

No. of children immunised during the year :

(i) pre-school children	} Nil. Prophylactics used—Nil.
(ii) school children	
(iii) adults	

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—Not known.

(2) *Scarlet fever*.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :

(a) In hospitals, resident institutions or schools—None.

(b) at special clinics or day schools—None.

(c) otherwise than (a) or (b)—None.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—Yes, upon request.

No. of children immunised during the year—None except by private practitioners.

Disinfection after infectious disease .—

No. of houses disinfected during 1938—19.

Method (state disinfectant used)—Formaldehyde Vapour.

Are houses disinfected after (a) pulmonary tuberculosis—
Yes. (b) measles—No.

† Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc., (steam or otherwise)—Fumigated at same time as houses.

No. of articles disinfected—Not known.

Where is apparatus situated?—Nil.

Disinfestation :—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous etc., persons?—None.

In how many instances has this been undertaken?—None required.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc., should be referred to and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppression.

† If apparatus at hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of patients *not* removed to the hospital?—No. If not, please state how disinfection of clothing, etc., in these cases is carried out—As above.

Very little bug infestation reported. Distribution of rat killer where required to tenant of premises infested and distribution of material (liquid) for any insect pest infestation.

Cancer.—Any observations as to the prevalence of cancer ?
No fresh observations.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer, (*i.e.*, facilities available, etc.):—

. Only by personal advice.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or other developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals):—

No fresh developments.

Are the present facilities adequate?—
Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres ?
Yes.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer?—

None.

Prevention of Blindness.—Action taken (if any) under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes:—

By L.C.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade—

Under Article 3	} No action necessary.
„ 5	
„ 6	
„ 7	

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936—No action necessary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Is the Maternity and Child Welfare Work carried out by the *local* authority or by the County Council?—

L.C.C.

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, for :—

Consultants	} L.C.C. Scheme.
Bacteriological examinations	
Hospital treatment	
Provision of nurses	

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926, for :—

Hospital treatment	} L.C.C. Scheme.
Provision of nurses	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Details should be given in the following table of *each* case of ophthalmia neonatorum notified in your district during 1938 :—

Cases.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total blindness.	Deaths.
Notified	Treated.					
	At home.	In hospital				
2	2		2			

Child Life Protection (under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932) Action taken :—

L C.C. Scheme.

T. J. L. FORBES, M.O.H.

14th April, 1939.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Whitworth Urban District Council.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I beg to submit my Report for 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

45 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 18 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers, and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

In three instances during the year legal proceedings were instituted ; in each case a Magistrates' Order was procured, and the work was subsequently carried out.

STATEMENT OF REMOVAL OF NUISANCES IN AND AROUND DWELLINGS.

Nature of work done	Nos.
Houses :	
Houses repaired—walls and ceilings, including dampness	37
Houses repaired—floors	10
Houses repaired—roofs	3
Houses repaired—staircases.....	7
Cellar steps repaired.....	1
Houses cleansed	2
Window frames repaired, made to open, etc.....	22
Eavestroughing repaired	7
Rain water pipes repaired	1
External doors repaired	7
General house fittings :—	
boilers, fireranges, etc	5
cupboards and fittings	2

Nature of work done	Nos.
Emission of smoke into living room	6
Slopstone renewed	9
Waste pipes repaired or trapped	11
Water supply pipes repaired	1
Insufficient water supply	2
Insanitary cellars	2
New water services provided	5
Closets :	
Waste water closets repaired	2
Closet fittings repaired or renewed	13
Accommodation cleansed	2
Doors repaired	9
Drainage, etc. :	
Branch drains reconstructed	54
Drains opened and cleansed.....	10
Surface water drainage repaired	23
Defective drainage fittings	1
New dish stones provided	4
General :	
Keeping of birds discontinued	1
Outbuildings repaired or demolished	10
Stagnant water removed from cellars, etc.....	2

NOTE.—See also under Factory and Workshop Acts for additional work.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling-houses	170
Factories	18
Offensive trades.....	10
Slaughterhouses	462
Dairy farms	71
Shops and vehicles	34
Bakehouses	51
Fried fish shops	16
Ice-cream Premises	6

HOUSING.

The Statistics relating to the number of houses erected, inspections and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts are given in Housing Table.

The question of housing has received attention throughout the year. Fifteen dwelling houses were found to be unfit for human habitation, and eighteen dwelling houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of repair.

No representations were made regarding any Clearance Areas.

During the year 10 back-to back houses were made through and 18 houses were reconditioned. This reconditioning included such work as the provision of bath and hot water installation, larder accommodation, improvement of internal fittings, etc.

As will be seen from the Housing Table 25 cases of overcrowding involving 170 persons have been relieved during the year.

No new cases were discovered, and of the 62 remaining overcrowded there exist a good number where the tenancies cannot afford to pay a rent in excess of that already being paid.

Three houses found to be affected with vermin were treated at the expense of the owner.

FACTORIES ACTS.

The number of premises being used as bakehouses is 23, and 51 inspections have been carried out. In view of the standard of cleanliness generally maintained it has not been found necessary to issue any Statutory Notice.

Thirty other premises used as workshops for various trades have received frequent visits throughout the year.

See Table for other details of inspections under the Acts.

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories With Mechanical Power	19	4	...
Workshops Without Mechanical Power	40	4	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construc- tion but not including outworkers' premises)			
Total ...	59	8	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness	5	5		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature ...				
Inadequate ventilation ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors..				
Sanitary Conveniences :				
{ insufficient	2	1		
{ unsuitable or defective ...	1			
{ not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences	2	2		
(Not including offences re- lating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921), and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Fac- tories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	10	8	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 111 of Act of 1937.—Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The recorded observations during 1938 number 6. The time limit fixed by the Council for the issue of dense black smoke is three minutes per half-hour and no serious emission was recorded.

In addition to the recorded observations, in a few instances the mill premises were visited during an emission of dense smoke to obtain if possible information on the cause of the emission. In these circumstances no observation was recorded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The inspection of all premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received constant attention during the year. No action apart from the question of limewashing was necessary. The foodstuffs, taken collectively, show a good standard of quality.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of cowsheds on the Register at the end of 1938 was 39 of which 33 are dairy farms. During the year 71 visits have been made and the following improvements were carried out after negotiations with owners and occupiers :—

Shippons reconstructed.....	2
New dairies	2
Drainage reconstructed on modern principles...	2

The cost of the improvements was approximately £400 and the work was carried out through informal notice followed up by negotiations.

In the case of four other farms under notice for improvement or reconstruction, the work is either in hand or under negotiation.

No applications were received in regard to Designated Milk but all premises have been so reconstructed structurally that they will be satisfactory for "Accredited Milk."

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The County Police administer the provisions of the above Act in this district and I am indebted to Superintendent Mitchell for the following particulars of samples obtained during 1938 :

Milk	15	samples
Cornflour	1	sample
Margarine.....	1	„
Boiled Sweets ...	1	„
Tea	1	„
Pickles	1	„

All the above samples were genuine, except two of the Milk Samples, one milk sample was found on analysis to be "Adulterated, Deficient 5% solids not fat" no proceedings being taken. The other milk sample was found on analysis to be Fat 1·7, Solids not fat 8·9, Water 89·4. The County Analyst in this case recommended proceedings, and the vendor was at Rochdale County Police Court on 30th March, 1938, fined £1 and ordered to pay 10/6 costs.

During 1939 further samples have been taken from the two vendors of the deficient samples of milk, and these have on analysis been found genuine.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing bottled milk is 7. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Milk—Tuberculosis.

33 samples were submitted for detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represent the mixed milk of about 400 cows, and it is extremely satisfactory to report that all the samples were negative.

Samples of all milk supplied to school children are obtained quarterly and submitted for examination.

Milk—Bacteriological.

During the year 40 samples were procured for examination for bacterial count, coliform bacillus and the methylene blue reduction test, and of this number 11 were unsatisfactory.

Of the unsatisfactory samples one was from a farm outside the area and the authority concerned was notified.

Regarding the local samples the farms were visited, enquiries instituted and suggestions put forward, and in my opinion the producers are only too anxious to provide a pure and wholesome milk supply.

As stated previously no applications were made for the production of Accredited Milk. This is a matter for regret, as there is no doubt that the Accredited Scheme is a step in the right direction. There are certain conditions to fulfil in order to obtain and retain a licence and possibly this is the cause of the apathy.

The bulk method of distribution is still much larger than the more hygienic container principle, but one can see a gradual increase in the adoption of the latter method.

Apart from the actual cost of the containers, however, it is a general complaint amongst retailers that wastage and misuse weigh heavily against universal adoption. The public can therefore help on the question of distribution by proper use of the bottles.

Water Supply.

Four samples of water from private supplies were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, and of this number two were unsatisfactory. The supply was discontinued, and the affected houses connected to the public supply.

Slaughterhouses.

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses in the district and during the year 462 visits were made, and 1872 carcasses of animals inspected as shewn below. 9 cwts. 82 lbs of foodstuffs were destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding Cows Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	Not fully known				
Number inspected	279		36	1369	188
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned —	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned —	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	4	—	—	—

There were no infringements of the Meat Regulations or Byelaws regarding slaughterhouses but successful Court proceeding were instituted under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, regarding the killing of a sheep on farm premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two in the area—1 Tripe Boiling and 1 Hide Curing and 8 visits have been made. Both are carried on in a satisfactory manner.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the year 20 inspections have been carried out. There was no contravention of the requirements.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1794
Waste Water Closets	173
Pail Closets	65

As reported last year there are 65 pail closets existing and these are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling houses	38
Mills and Workshops	9
Farms	7
Churches, etc.	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where there is no sewer available, and the possibility of provision remote.

In regard to the waste water closets 6 have been converted to the fresh water carriage system during the year.

In many instances these closets are unsatisfactory and it is hoped that the conversions will be expedited by a contribution towards the cost.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Domestic refuse is collected weekly from all dwelling houses, the collection being carried out by motor waggon.

The refuse is disposed of as far as possible by controlled tipping on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

The composition of the refuse varies as also does the quantity, a large part of the present day refuse being made up of tins and paper matter, with the result that you have bulk and less weight.

There has been a small amount of salvage of scrap iron, etc., but no proper attempt can be made regarding tins until a suitable baling machine is obtained.

No trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of rats.

The removal of trade refuse is carried out weekly, thus being quickly disposed of, preventing accumulation and nuisance.

The substitution of regulation ashbins for wooden ashtubs is now practically complete.

The following gives the details and cost of collection and disposal from January 1st, 1938, to December 31st, 1938 :—

Loads removed	919
Cost per load	17/1d.
Estimated weight	2198 tons
Cost per ton	7/2d.
Weight per house per annum	17½ cwts.
Cost per house per annum ..	6/7d.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. Three samples of effluent were taken by the Rivers Inspector, and in each instance were classed as satisfactory. The results are based on the oxydizable organic matter, the test being the percentage of oxygen absorbed in 4 hours.

During the year 1614 pressfuls of sludge have been dealt with, representing in dry cake weight 567 tons. A large part of this has been disposed of to farmers, but during the latter part of the year the cake has accumulated and difficulty of storage is being experienced.

The works have run smoothly during the year and no trouble has been encountered.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his valued assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED COOKSON, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,

Whitworth.

